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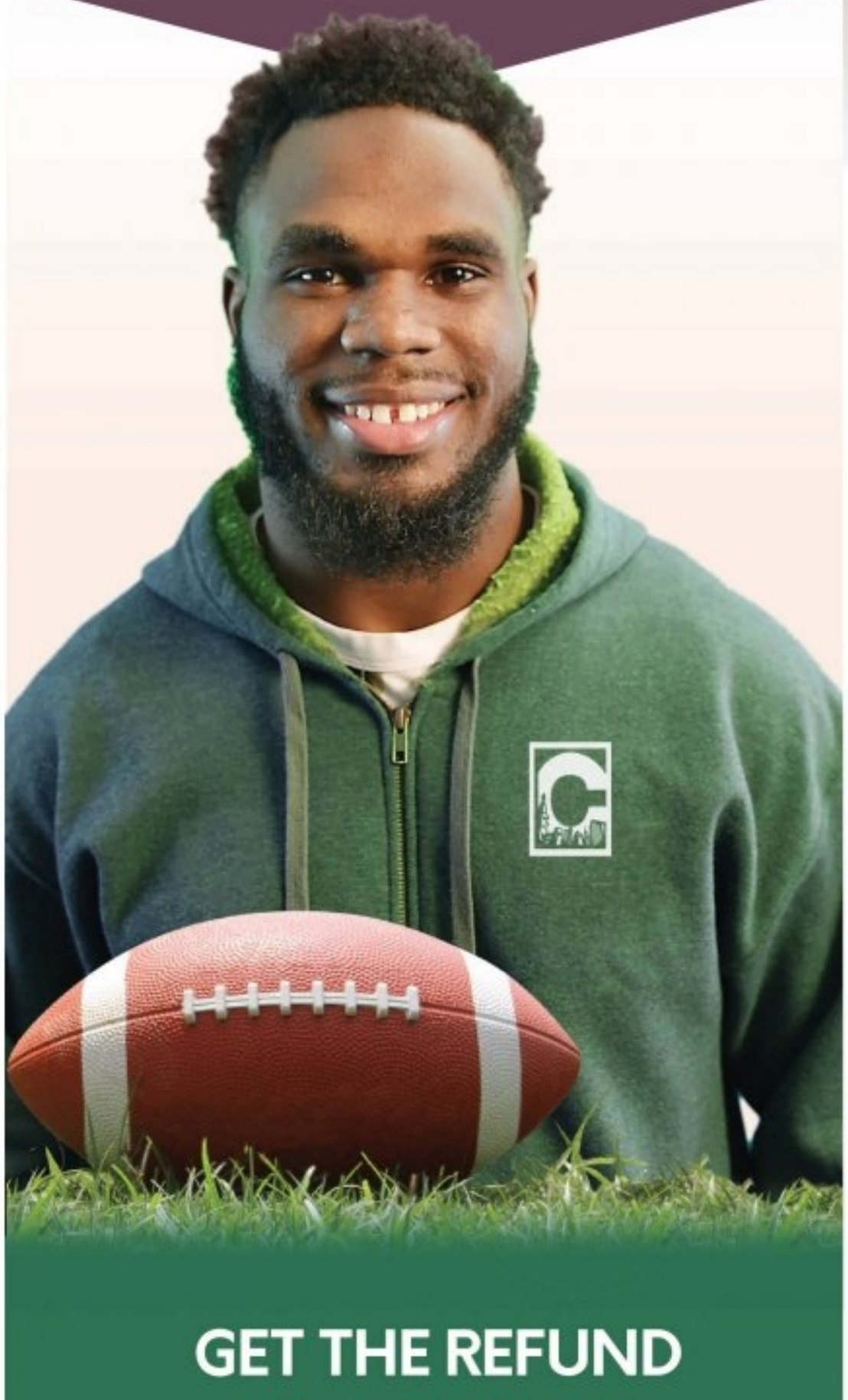

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Mads Mikkelsen on his icy new film. 10

City events help kick off Black History Month. 8

How to celebrate National Hot Chocolate Day in Philly. 13

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WHAT'S UP, DOC?

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Sixers–Warriors betting preview. 16-17

The legendary head of the Philly electricians union, "Johnny Doc," has operated under a cloud since a federal raid of his home and offices. Now, the feds have come swinging, calling him and a city councilman "thieves and fraudsters." 2

PROVIDED

Local 98's 'Johnny Doc' treated union as piggy bank, peddled influence: Feds

A 116-count indictment against one of Philly's most politically influential figures was unsealed Wednesday.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A long-rumored federal indictment unsealed Wednesday is filled with damning allegations leveled against the leadership of Philadelphia's most influential workers' union and its ties with city government.

The 116-count indictment filed by the Philly U.S. Attorney's office charges nine people, including legendary International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 98 business manager John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty and sitting City Councilman Bobby Henon, a former Local 98 member who has reportedly continued collecting a $70,000-a-year salary from the union while representing the city's Sixth District.

Federal prosecutors and FBI agents allege that through Henon, Dougherty's influence touched several recent governmental efforts — the soda tax, negotiations with Comcast, the Philadelphia Parking Authority and even investigations of private towing companies.

The defendants are also accused of taking $600,000 from the union's accounts and charitable funds for personal construction work, travel, expensive family meals and personal purchases, prosecutors said.

"If convicted of all charges, these defendants face decades in prison."

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams

"If convicted of all charges, these defendants face decades in prison," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbittier Williams, who is handling the investigation, as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania William McSwain recused himself due to a conflict involving his prior work at a private firm. "Corruption is a cancer on the public good, and when the citizens of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania lose faith that their elected officials are held to the same rule of law as everyone else, then they lose faith in our democracy."

All nine defendants are due for their first court appearances on Friday.

"This is not a case against Local 98. ... The people most directly victimized by the alleged actions of those charged in this investigation are the honest and hard-working members of the IBEW Local 98 and the citizens of Philadelphia," said Michael Harpster, FBI special agent in charge of the Philadelphia division. "Sadly, we are here again to announce yet another indictment against public officials or those who were chosen to represent the interest of others. It is yet another crack on that Liberty Bell of democracy."

John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty, business manager of IBEW Local 98, seen at a 2015 press conference, is rumored to be facing federal charges. ALL IMAGES CHARLES MOSTOLLER

A spokesman for IBEW Local 98 declined to comment immediately on the indictment and said they would be issuing a response to the indictment later. Henon released a statement denying any wrongdoing.

"I have done nothing wrong," Henon said. "Every action I have taken as City Councilmember has been with the goal of serving working people. I have worked tirelessly to protect and serve my constituents from being victimized by powerful companies whose thirst for profit is unquenchable. I have always reported every penny of my union income to the City, and the State. I have never committed fraud in my life. ... I look forward to clearing my name."

The federal indictment into Local 98 had been expected ever since the FBI raided Dougherty's home in July 2016, also raiding Local 98's headquarters, Councilman Henon's offices in City Hall, some Local 98-linked offices in South Jersey, and "Doc's Union Bar," a South Philly restaurant owned by Local 98 that was used to host political campaign fundraisers for more than a dozen candidates. That bar has since been sold and converted into Mifflin Tavern.

Johnny Doc portrayed as puppet master in federal indictment

While nine Local 98 affiliates are charged with fraud and embezzlement, some of the most damning allegations relate to the alleged relationship between business manager John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty and City Councilman Bobby Henon.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Williams claimed that Dougherty paid Henon to "do his bidding from his seat on City Council." While Henon claimed he "always put my constituents and the people of Philadelphia first," the indictment details several "overt acts" Henon undertook that Dougherty urged him to do.

In July 2015, Dougherty directed Henon to report Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to the Department of Licenses & Inspections (L&I) for using non-union technicians to install new MRI machines, resulting in the hospital being denied a "Certificate of Occupancy" for the MRI room, the feds allege.

"They shut down that GE room up at Children's Hospital; they red-striped it," Dougherty later allegedly told a Local 98 associate, according to the indictment. "But we got to be smart, we don't want them to f— us. We got to capitalize off that. I got to get a meeting with Children's Hospital again, things like that, you know."

Also at Dougherty's direction, in mid-2015, as chair of City Council's Committee for Public Property and Public Works, Henon pressured Comcast into hiring Local 98-aligned contractor George Peltz's company MJK Electric to "advance" the city of Philadelphia's negotiations regarding the renewal of Comcast's cable franchise agreement, the feds allege. Henon furthermore opened a City Council investigation into a towing company, as directed by Dougherty, who wanted revenge after one of the company's drivers towed his car, forced him to pay a $200 fine, and didn't have $10 in change. ("That $10 is going to cost their f—ing industry a bundle," Dougherty allegedly told Henon.)

Even Councilman Henon's support for Mayor Kenney's signature soda tax was directed by Dougherty — as a means of revenge against the Teamsters Union for running a political commercial negatively depicting Dougherty, the feds allege.

"I just saw the Carpenters and Teamsters commercial with you in it. I'm going to f— them big time, just so you know," Henon allegedly texted Dougherty. He later bragged to another associate, "Let me tell you what Bobby Henon's going to do. ... They're going to start to put a tax on soda again and that will cost the Teamsters 100 jobs in Philly."

Henon allegedly told Dougherty an unidentified City Council member would vote the soda tax "if the member got a 'little, like, hug.'" Dougherty allegedly replied, "Let him know that once you get this stuff, there's gonna be a ton of major league jobs, that his wife [is] more than qualified for," according to the indictment.

Interestingly, the indictment states that Dougherty served as a go-between for the Mayor's Office and Henon with questions about whether Henon would introduce a soda tax bill at Council. Later, the indictment states, "after a member of the Mayor's administration explained to defendant John Dougherty the benefits that the soda tax would provide to the city of Philadelphia, Dougherty replied, 'You don't have to explain to me. I don't give a f—. Listen, my goal is to make sure you are alright, that's all.'" SAM NEWHOUSE

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Temperatures dropped to well below zero Wednesday in Madison, Wisconsin. GETTY IMAGES

Polar vortex makes Midwest colder than South Pole

Even the South Pole in Antarctica was warmer than Chicago, with an expected low of minus 24 with windchill.

A polar vortex brought record low temperatures to much of the U.S. Midwest on Wednesday, making conditions so unbearable that trash haulers stopped making pickups and mail carriers suspended deliveries.

Classes were canceled for Wednesday and Thursday in many cities, including Chicago, home of the nation's third-largest school system, and police warned of the risk of accidents on icy highways. Michigan said all state offices would remain closed through Thursday.

In a rare move, the U.S. Postal Service appeared to temporarily set aside its credo that "neither snow nor rain ... nor gloom of night" would stop its work: it halted deliveries from parts of the Dakotas through Ohio.

Streets in Chicago were nearly empty, with few people walking outside in the painfully cold air as temperatures hovered around minus 18.

"It's terrible!" Pasquale Cappellano, a 68-year-old waiter, said as he smoked a cigarette while waiting outside for a bus on the North Side of Chicago. "I gotta pick up my medication at Walgreens or else I wouldn't be out the door."

Temperatures in parts of the Northern Plains and Great Lakes plunged to as low as minus 42 in Park Rapids, Minnesota, and minus 31 in Fargo, North Dakota, according to the National Weather Service. The frigid winds were headed for the U.S. East Coast later on Wednesday into Thursday.

Andrew Orrison, a meteorologist with the service, said that some of the coldest windchills were recorded in International Falls, Minnesota, at minus 55. Even the South Pole in Antarctica was warmer, with an expected low of minus 24 with windchill.

Banks and stores in the region, including multiple branches of Chase and Trader Joe's, closed for business. Waste Management, a major trash collection company, said it was canceling pick-ups in counties across the region on Wednesday and Thursday.

The bitter cold was caused by a displacement of the polar vortex, a stream of air that normally spins around the stratosphere over the North Pole, but whose current was disrupted and was now pushing south.

An Illinois police department found a fictitious cause for the icy blast, posting on Facebook that its officers had arrested Elsa, the frosty character from the Disney movie "Frozen," for bringing the arctic air to the Midwest.

The McLean Police Department shared a staged photo of officers putting a woman dressed in a blue princess gown in pink handcuffs and escorting her into a police car.

Officials opened warming centers across the region, and in Chicago, police stations were open to anyone seeking refuge from the cold. Five city buses were also deployed to serve as mobile warming centers for homeless people.

The Chicago Police Department said that at most, it could encourage people to get out of the cold. "But we will never force someone," police officer Michael Carroll said.

At least five deaths related to extreme cold weather had been reported since Saturday in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, local media reports said. REUTERS

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Americans now trust House Speaker Nancy Pelosi more than Trump. GETTY IMAGES

New poll gives Pelosi the trust edge over Trump

Trailing by seven points, most voters disagree with him on the border wall.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

More American voters trust House Speaker Nancy Pelosi than President Trump to handle their major concerns, a new Quinnipiac poll has found.

Asked which leader was more trustworthy "on issues that are important to you," 49 percent of respondents said Pelosi; 42 percent said Trump. The results were sharply partisan — 88 percent of Republicans were with Trump, while 91 percent of Democrats were with Pelosi — and there was a gender gap: men favored Trump by six points, but Pelosi bested Trump among women by 14 points.

But in a potentially troublesome sign for the 2020 elections, independent voters picked Pelosi by 13 points: 49 percent to 36 percent for Trump.

The poll came after a monthlong government shutdown that has been bruising for Trump. Before Christmas, he refused to sign a continuing resolution to keep the government open until February unless it contained funding for his favored border wall. After nearly 800,000 federal workers missed nearly two paychecks, Trump relented, agreeing to open the government for three weeks without concessions for the wall, which Pelosi called "an immorality" for which she would not approve one dollar in funding.

The poll, released Tuesday, had more bad news for Trump. He has a 38 percent approval rating, down from 41 percent two weeks ago. Fifty-six percent of voters blame him and Republicans for the government shutdown, while 34 percent blamed the Democrats in Congress.

On the issue of border security, voters said they trusted the Democrats in Congress more than Trump, 50 percent to 41 percent. Asked whether they supported a border wall, 55 percent said no, 41 percent said yes.

And in stark contrast to Trump's hardline stances on immigration — from the Muslim ban to forced child separations at the Mexico border — 75 percent of voters said immigration is a good thing for the country, while only 14 percent said it was a bad thing.

Voters also rebuffed Trump's ban on transgender service members: 70 percent said that transgender people should be allowed to serve in the military, while only 22 percent said they shouldn't.

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Mural Arts is celebrating Black History Month with a special trolley tour. COURTESY MURAL ARTS

Black History Month celebrates culture with exciting events

The busy month will include free screenings of "Black Panther."

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

Philadelphia is known for its importance in American history, but it also has as a prominent role in black history. This Black History Month, events featuring prominent black performers, academics, art and film all pay homage to the beauty of the African diaspora and its descendants.

As a storyteller and creator of the identity series "Black History Untold," Sofiya Ballin is well aware of Philadelphia's importance in black history and the significance of celebrating it.

"Black history is so important in Philadelphia," Ballin said. "It's one of the oldest cities in America and there's an amazing history that's here. When you think about W.E.B. DuBois coming here and writing [his study] "The Philadelphia Negro," the history of black architect Julian Abele and his designing the [Philadelphia Museum of Art], there is so much black history here that it only makes sense that we go all out in celebrating it."

Ballin believes it is important to highlight black history at historical museums like the Museum of the American Revolution (MOAR). "At the Museum of the American Revolution — which I'm excited to tour — I'll be talking about the trajectory of 'Black History Untold' and the importance of the project, particularly in a space like MOAR where we're talking about the American Revolution," Ballin added. "Often when people hear 'American' and 'revolution,' they think of white male soldiers, and there were so many other people involved like black people and women. I'm really excited to delve into the importance of exploring that."

Four Black History Month events to check out

1. Free "Black Panther" screenings
To celebrate Black History Month, blockbuster Marvel superhero film "Black Panther" will be screened twice a day at local AMC Theatres for free from Feb. 1-7. In addition to offering the free screenings, media company and Marvel Studios owner Disney will donate $1.5 million to the United Negro College Fund in an effort to help black students attend college.

2. Mural Arts Black History Month Mural Tour
On Sunday, Feb. 10, Mural Arts will offer a special tour via trolley that allows patrons to see murals throughout the city that celebrate black history. Philadelphia is known for its lush, visually stimulating murals and a tour guide will help provide context for art that celebrates seminal figures in black history like Martin Luther King Jr.

3. Theatre in the X and The African American Museum Present "The Colored Museum"
The African American Museum will host a free special performance and art experience with West Philadelphia's arts company Theatre in the X from Feb. 16-17. "The Colored Museum" centers around a fictional museum that holds key black history figures captive as public commodities. In using 11 different museum exhibits, performers will explore the stereotypes associated with black people and examine what it means to be black.

4. "History After Hours: Black History Month at the Museum of the American Revolution"
The Museum of the American Revolution's monthly nighttime event on Tuesday, Feb. 19, will feature discussions on black history featuring experts like the Bethel Burying Ground Project's Terry Buckalew. The creator of identity series "Black History Untold" Sofiya Ballin will be on hand to discuss what inspired her to share stories of black history that generally go undiscussed. A special pop-up museum will allow visitors to bring a single item that reflects their background for one night only.

Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

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I'm tired of trying to access a site online and having to prove I'm not a robot. Of course, the "proof" is picking out pictures that have street signs, or storefronts or other choices. If you can't choose correctly on the first try, you're given a few other chances. There's always the possibility you won't ever make the right choice, and so, can't access the site.

I want to know why choosing the right number of street sign pictures proves I'm not a robot? And, why does it matter if I AM a robot? I'm sure if I were one, I'd have an easier time picking the right number of signs!
— **Sue Deutsch**, *Metro US*

WALMART SELF-CHECKOUT

I was in Walmart yesterday ready to check out when I noticed half the self-checkout registers were down. When I asked an employee what was wrong, she told me they were being removed because people love to steal. I found using the self-checkouts fast and convenient. It beat waiting in a long line. It lowered your grocery bill because Walmart needed fewer cashiers. Now it's back to waiting in endless lines. Why do people have to ruin everything?
— **Anonymous**, *Metro US reader*

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HELP THE HOMELESS

Most of the country will be experiencing record-breaking chills over the next few days, and no one will be affected by this as much as those who do not have a home. It is extremely important that those who are in need find shelter from the cold; any help can go a long way. Make sure to call the Homelessness Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984 or 1-877-222-1984 if you see anyone in need of help.

Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

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Aries If you make suggestions, you'll gain support that will lead to positive change. Attending business meetings, getting together with friends or something special for a loved one is favored.

Taurus Follow through with your plans. Talk less and do more. Determination and discipline will help you finish what you start. If you can't say something nice, be quiet.

Gemini Consider what you want, and then take action. A relationship will take a positive turn if you share your thoughts and feelings and listen attentively.

Cancer What someone says will change your perspective regarding how you do your job or take care of your responsibilities. Take note of what others do, but follow your heart.

Leo If you don't like your current situation, do something about it. A change will do you good. Open up a conversation that will clarify what exactly you want.

Virgo A problem at home needs to be addressed quickly to avoid a scene or unwanted change. Offer alternatives, along with common sense and incentives.

Libra You'll come up with a good idea, but not everyone will support what you want to do. Have confidence and move forward with your plans. A personal change looks promising.

Scorpio Taking a short trip or attending a trade show, seminar or business meeting will lead to new beginnings. Take your time and do things your way. A creative outlet will ease stress.

Sagittarius You'll come up with a plan that shouldn't be ignored. Put some thought, muscle and initiative into getting your scheme up and running. Celebrate with a loved one.

Capricorn Make a change for the right reasons. Discuss your plans with someone you respect. Much can be accomplished if you do your own thing. Walk away from anyone using pressure tactics.

Aquarius Make a positive change. Working for or volunteering to help a cause you believe in will bring favorable results and forge valuable connections. Make your move and follow through with your plans.

Pisces If you get together with someone you respect, you'll be offered sound advice regarding a personal situation. Walk away from indulgent matters. Take better care of your health. EUGENIA LAST

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Mads Mikkelsen on fighting a brutal blizzard to shoot 'Arctic'

The Danish actor also talks about his new Netflix film, "Polar."

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Mads Mikkelsen has already had a very busy—and cold—start to 2019.

Over the last week, the Danish actor's film "Polar," Netflix's adaptation of Victor Santos' neo-noir comic book, was released on the streaming service, while his upcoming performance in "Arctic" really needs to be seen to be believed. More on that later, though.

The frigid temperatures were very real in "Arctic." BLEEKER STREET

When it comes to "Polar," Mikkelsen takes on the role of renowned assassin Duncan Vizla, effortlessly switching from brooding to intensely violent with aplomb.

"There is a certain film noir to him," Mikkelsen tells Metro. "He's retiring, he's lethal, but not a bodybuilder, he's just heavy and tired. There are two worlds here. There's the film noir world and then there is this colorful world of other characters."

Juxtaposing these two worlds, and making sure that the film honored the beloved source material, was something that Mikkelsen, who also produced Polar, and the rest of the creative team worked tirelessly to perfect. Especially when it came to the unique color palette of the graphic novels.

"It was tricky when we had to imagine some of the other characters who were like ten times bigger than some of the other characters physically," says Mikkelsen. "Obviously that's a trick you can get away with in a graphic novel. So we had to figure out how to give the characters an edge that had the same feel."

"The graphic novels are amazing. I just love them," he adds. "The red, white and black colors, the brutality of them, the exploitation kind of feel to them and the film noir. I just think they were brilliant."

Shooting "Polar" was a stroll in the park compared to "Arctic," which sees Mikkelsen play a man stranded in an icy wasteland waiting for rescue, only for the intended helicopter to crash when it arrives, leaving him with just hours to try and get its injured pilot and himself to safety.

"It was insane, madness," says Mikkelsen regarding the shoot, which consisted of just a small movable crew. "The conditions you see are the ones we went through. You can't have too many props and too many costumes in a situation like that.

"We had to move fast and quick. If there was a blizzard, we had to be able to move within two minutes."

The conditions were so brutal that its 30 day shoot was reduced to just 19, meaning each day devoted to filming had to be twice as long. Mikkelsen admits that, by the end of each day, he couldn't even "walk any more."

Mads Mikkelsen stars in Netflix's "Polar." NETFLIX

"It just became more and more brutal. But God is the main character," says Mikkelsen. "The weather and the landscape, they were our biggest obstacle and also our biggest friend. Because of all the freebies it gave us. You just can't create that with money."

Not that Mikkelsen could ever truly appreciate just how incredible the locations would look on film. "I tell you, I don't think I had the energy to imagine how it was looking," he recalls. "I was just basically like, 'Left foot. Okay. Now right foot."

Ultimately, though, Mikkelsen doesn't see "Arctic" as just a survival film.

"Of course, on the surface, it is a survival film," he explains. "But what we're addressing on a different level is there's a big difference between surviving and being alive."

"Being alive takes at least one more human being in your close vicinity," he adds.

"In many ways, she is his savior as well. She's making him give up that base camp dwelling and go out and live life. They depend on each other to stay human."

"Arctic" is in select theaters beginning Feb. 1. "Polar" is now on Netflix.

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Steve Gunn on paying respects to your influences, the Misfits included

We sat down with Steve Gunn to talk about his excellent new album "The Unseen In Between" and some of his earliest influences.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Musician Steve Gunn is keeping the flame burning as one of Americana's last true outsider journeymen. Over 10 years, Gunn has built up a rich catalog of beautiful folk songs that touch on the delicacies of everyday life with adventurous guitar playing that places him in the company of some of the best working today. Gunn's excellent new album, "The Unseen In Between," is out on Frion Matador Records, and we got the chance to talk to him ahead of his world tour.

Your guitar playing gets a lot of notice in a lot of reviews. As it should. But I've always found your lyrics fascinating. They are so vivid in their imagery, especially on the new album. They also pull off the great trick of feeling like they are etched into stone and not tied to a specific time period. Is that something you try to be conscious of in the writing process?
I think so! Now that I think about it, in retrospect. As a songwriter, I am really influenced by art and poetry and also folk tradition. I like to meld all of those things together and not pin down the imagery to a certain object or present time. It's just the way I work, I think. I tend to think about a lot of things when I write a song. Usually, I try to think of the thematic ideas and then use the descriptions within that instead of speaking from a singular experience. I certainly address some personal issues on the record. But, lyrically, I like to keep it not super, super specific. I'd like to try that as an exercise someday. Some songs that I've written, people are like, "This doesn't make any sort of sense. What is the story or the context?" and I'm like "I'd rather keep that to myself." I think with this record, it's a bit more introspective than my other records.

"I try to think of the thematic ideas and then use the descriptions within that instead of speaking from a singular experience."

You've talked a lot about gaining inspiration from free jazz musicians like Sun Ra. I was so surprised to see that you recently released a Misfits cover. Was punk also a gateway for you to get into more rebellious music?
It did. Thinking about it in retrospect, when you're trying to explain or even just think about the signposts in your life, for me as a musician I think about when I was young, my parents and the area where I grew up — these are things that I never really considered until people started asking me "what is your musical history and how did you become the musician that you are?"

When I was really young, my parents were really into music. I also had an older sister which I think was very key for me when it came to discovering music. She was an outlet for me and I would just borrow stuff from her constantly. I almost vicariously started experiencing music through her. She would go to these concerts and I would ask about them. I started emulating her and her friends and going to concerts at like 13 years old. Then, I kind of had an exploratory sensibility about music. The more I played the more I wanted to know about other kinds of music. It wasn't until after I was graduating from high school that I started learning about jazz and blues music. Shortly after that, I was discovering all of these musicians who were incorporating all of these different styles like Indian classical, jazz, and all kinds of stuff. When I moved out of my parents' house, I just kind of met all of these people who were older and started going to record stores. That's when everything opened up. I was befriending people who were, for the lack of a better word, just deep music appreciators. ... That's when everything started informing me as a musician and as a music nerd, I guess.

Make sure to catch Steve Gunn at Union Transfer this Saturday.

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Will Maroon 5 actually play a SpongeBob Super Bowl tribute?

Will the band pay tribute to the Nickelodeon character? GETTY IMAGES

Will the rockers be performing "Sweet Victory"?

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

The are going to the Super Bowl for the third straight year, much to the jubilation of fans and annoyance of and detractors. Ignoring the politics of the NFL for a moment, however, a recent Twitter tease by this year's halftime show performers, Maroon 5, has fans of the acclaimed Nickelodeon cartoon SpongeBob SquarePants excited. Why? Because Maroon 5 might play tribute to memorialize the late Stephen Hillenburg.

About 32 seconds into Maroon 5's Super Bowl halftime show teaser, footage from Hillenburg's SpongeBob SquarePants is briefly cut into the mix of performance footage and crowd shots. Otherwise, neither the teaser nor the band makes explicit mention of the character's presence. More than anything, it just seems like a random bit of extra footage that just feels out of place.

If you've been following the hugely popular Change.org petition calling for a SpongeBob Super Bowl tribute, however, then Maroon 5's tease means a great deal more. As of this writing, more than 1.1 million people have signed Israel Colunga's petition, which "[calls] for Sweet Victory to be performed" during the customary Super Bowl musical performance.

No one from the NFL, Nickelodeon or Maroon 5 has explicitly stated that the halftime show will somehow incorporate "Sweet Victory." Yet aside from the band's tweet, the relevant parties have been hinting at something since Colunga's petition first went viral. The official Twitter account for Mercedes-Benz Stadium acknowledged the petition with a SpongeBob GIF. At around the same time, Nickelodeon made the entire "Sweet Victory" sequence available to watch on YouTube.

None of this actually means Maroon 5 will perform "Sweet Victory" during halftime. But if they do decide to perfa SpongeBob Super Bowl tribute, then it will surely be one of the more memorable internet-inspired performances in recent memory.

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Urban Farmer's hot chocolate. ALL PHOTOS PUNCH MEDIA

Chocolate makes *everything* better

Where to celebrate National Hot Chocolate Day.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

There's a cold front coming in, and the only way to battle the winter blues is with a rich, indulgent, piping cup of hot chocolate. Philadelphians are in luck — today is National Hot Chocolate Day and many Philly bars and restaurants are offering tasty treats for the special holiday.

Co-Op

The University City spot is helping the City of Brotherly Love through the cold front with its house-made hot chocolate ($4). Everyone can enjoy this sweet treat and adults can even enjoy it with a shot of Bailey's and DiSaronno for $10 all day on Thursday in celebration of National Hot Chocolate Day. Guests can pair their hot chocolate with one of Co-Ops hearty dishes such as braised lamb bucatini or a cast-iron pork chop to really beat the cold. *20 S. 33rd St., coopphilly.com*

Shane Confectionary

This Old City hotspot offers some piping-hot choices that are perfect for the polar vortex and National Hot Chocolate Day. Guests can even get flights — yes, flights — of their different flavors so you don't have to choose just one. Choices include Royal Spanish drinking chocolate, white peppermint, Thomas Jefferson's hot chocolate and much more. *110 Market St., shanecandies.com*

Urban Farmer

Urban Farmer is beating the polar vortex by serving up some house-made hot chocolate for $3 all day on Jan.31. Anyone 21 and older can also choose to spike the delicious beverage for just $2 more as well. The hot chocolate is served with an optional dollop of whipped cream and chocolate syrup for the ultimate ode to National Hot Chocolate Day. *1850 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, urbanfarmerphiladelphia.com*

The Bar by Bluebird Distilling's hot chocolate.

Max Brenner

Max Brenner offers some of the best chocolate creations in the City of Brotherly Love. The Center City spot has a ton to choose from their menu for National Hot Chocolate Day including Mexican spicy hot chocolate, Italian thick hot chocolate, peanut butter hot chocolate, salted caramel hot chocolate and more. *1500 Walnut St., maxbrenner.com*

The Bar by Bluebird Distilling

The Bar by Bluebird Distilling located in The Bourse Food Hall will be celebrating all day Jan. 31 with spiked hot chocolate for $7. The hot chocolate is made with your choice of Bluebird Distilling spirit, mixed with house-made hot chocolate and warming spices. Philadelphians can pick up the warm cup of happiness and munch on food from other vendors as well. *111 S. Independence Mall, thebourse philly.com*

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5 Things to do in *Miami Beach*

As soon as you cross the bridge to Miami Beach, you'll realize very quickly that there's a lot to see and do.

Fodor'sTravel

In order to keep you from being overwhelmed and help you plan your trip, we've assembled a list of five of our favorite things to do in Miami Beach. Among them: well-known tourist hot spots and local hideouts; nightlife that'll spike your adrenaline; museums and artwork that will astound and humble you, and of course plenty to eat (and drink) in between those activities.

Here are five great things to do in Miami Beach.

1. Groove out to some reggae at Purdy Lounge, a low-key dance club with some of Miami's best DJs spinning Caribbean music as well as old-school hip-hop. Or drop by for their well-known "Chocolate Sundays," which feature a blender of music genres, cheap drinks, and the weekly Drunken Spelling Bee.

2. Take a tour of the Historic Art Deco District by foot or bike and see more than 800 stunning architectural landmarks from the 1920s and beyond. You can walk yourself through the history or you can take a narrated tour and hear the interesting stories behind the first contemporary neighborhood to be recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

3. Miami Seaquarium, just minutes from downtown Miami, is the place to see dolphins fly, fearsome moray eels lurk in coral reef caverns, and where shimmering schools of exotic fish dance through underwater seascapes. It's also the only place where you will see the graceful beauty of a Pacific white-sided dolphin and the incredible power of a three-ton killer whale.

Top Deck Dolphin Show

4. Stay at Circa 39, located right in the center of Miami Beach, and just minutes away from a number of craft breweries, the trendy arts district, and numerous live music venues., Once you've ventured into the city, kick back and relax with a rum cocktail by the pool at Wunderbar and lounge in the highly instagrammable WunderGarden.

5. Order a croque monsieur and a salad with house speciality vinaigrette at La Sandwicherie, a small sandwich bar that packs a punch with its genuine-tasting French food and its fresh smoothies. Some regard this dive as the best sandwich shop in all of Florida. ROBERT COCANOUGHER

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Betting odds play into Harper hysteria

On Futures odds and predicting blockbuster transactions.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editorial Director of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

We saw firsthand how much power a betting line — or alleged betting line — has this week as there was incredible buzz on social media that sportsbooks were pulling MLB Futures and Bryce Harper prop bets off the boards. That was not actually the case, but the situation bears watching for sure.

Most sports betting sites like VSiN and online sportsbooks like FanDuel still had the same odds on the Phillies potentially winning the 2019 World Series despite the hoopla. VSiN had the Phils with 15/1 odds as of Wednesday, which was the 11th-best in MLB. FanDuel Sportsbook had Gabe Kapler's club with the 10th-best odds to win next year's World Series at +1700.

SugarHouse is a bit more bullish on the Phils' chances in 2019 as they have the sixth-best odds at +1100.

Bettors should know that this sort of stuff can help you out. Betting on Futures, particularly during the offseason when there is a lot of player movement, can land you big money. For instance, the good money says that the Phillies are still a good bet to land Harper.

If you think Harper will make that big of a difference — and why wouldn't he, he's one of the two or three best players in the game — then you should be hammering those Phillies longshot Futures odds right now.

In-season Futures are worth taking a stab at as well. For instance, at the start of November, the Sixers had 22-1 odds of winning the NBA Finals. Minutes after the Jimmy Butler trade was completed, those odds jumped to 15-1.

You should anticipate fringe contenders making big trades during the season, particularly in baseball, in the NBA and in the NHL. For example, the Lakers and Celtics currently have long odds of winning the 2019 title. Most of that is due to the fact that Golden State is a juggernaut. But say the Lakers or Celtics complete a trade for Anthony Davis in the next week or so? Suddenly, those odds skyrocket.

Anticipating the fact that a top team could make a monster transaction in a title push is another way to potentially win big.

Sports betting 101: Tips from an expert

ISTOCK

Make no mistake, making money by betting on sports is a skill. Sure, you need a little luck on your side too, as at the end of the day you don't have control over whether or not that field goal kicker gets a good foot on the ball. But things like how much you should bet on certain games, when you bet on games, and which sportsbooks you use all matter greatly when placing a wager. MetroBet recently interviewed dozens of sports betting experts to get their take on a wide range of topics. Here are some thoughts from one of them, Ben F. from Jersey City, New Jersey.

What originally got you into sports betting?
Watching games in college. It just makes any event that much more enjoyable ... or stressful ... when you have something riding on it. Started with my friends, just small amounts, but then got serious when I actually had a stable job.

When did you realize you were better than the "average Joe" at sports betting?
When I went on a crazy run in the 2005 football playoffs. Steelers won it all as a wild card. I'm a Steelers fan to this day because of it!

How much do you bet on sports each week?
Now, around a grand. Usually around three grand during college and NFL seasons.

Why do you prefer one sportsbook over the other?
Sometimes one book will have slightly better odds. It's rewarding when you find them.

What's the most amount of money you've bet on one game?
Seven grand on the New England–Atlanta Super Bowl a couple years ago. Patriots barely covered. Game went into OT and I needed a touchdown, not a field goal. I stopped wagering for a few months after that one to recover from the stress!

What would you tell people who are thinking about wagering on sports for the first time?
Start slow in terms of the amount of money you're wagering. There's a learning curve. And if you go on a good run, expect a bad run to follow.

MATT BURKE

GO TO **METROBET.US** TO GAIN AN EDGE

Super Bowl LIII a battle of the minds

It will all come down to Belichick vs. McVay.

ANTHONY GARGANO

Anthony Gargano is a sports radio host on @97.5TheFanatic in Philadelphia and on FOX Sports Radio.

He is back here again. How is he here again? Seriously. For the love of Lombardi, he's here again and the world outside of New England shudders.

At some point during this NFL season, they thought his tyranny had ended. They spoke openly of his demise. Some even celebrated it.

BELICHICK

Back like a cold sore?

But while the world whines of Patriot fatigue for Super Bowl LIII, they're missing the greatest generation battle since the Titans of Mount Othrys fought the young Turks of Mount Olympus in the Titanomachy — the Battle of the Gods.

BELICHICK VS. MCVAY

With respect to the great Brady and the talented Goff, the game will be decided on the sidelines between men as different as network TV and Netflix.

The external is almost comical. One has a scrunched face — nearly always bitter-beered — and goes for the bum-cool look with his appearance. The other — the second-generation football son and specimen of the times — doubles for Bradley Cooper.

But the chess match between the two will be fascinating. Is McVay, with help from venerable defensive coordinator Wade Phillip, a worthy opponent for The Brain?

McVay is the voice in Goff's head and has proven most of the year to be prescient. But even with C.J. Anderson helping ease a gimpy Gurley, the Rams' run game isn't what it was when the offense was rolling in October. That offense also had Cooper Cupp in the slot — a more dangerous weapon than Josh Reynolds.

And this Rams offense is definitely not the Chiefs offense that Belichick slowed in the first half. If not for the ridiculous ability of Patrick Mahomes, the Patriots would have rolled to the Bowl.

- Belichick completely erased Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce from the game.

- The game plan on offense was to employ the fullback — Burkhead as the dot of the "i" formation in throwback fashion. Now-departed Chiefs DC Bob Sutton ran a lot of man-free under — a run defense — but still couldn't stop it. The result limited the Chiefs to three full possessions in the first half.

GETTY IMAGES

Look at what Belichick did the previous week to the Chargers. He pressured Philip Rivers consistently with five and jammed the San Diego receivers and completely derailed Anthony Lynn's game plan.

So when it comes to the pick for the game, all roads lead back to Belichick.

It took a blessed performance by Nick Foles for the Eagles to beat him last year — and the Patriots had a far worse defense compared to this season, even before he suspended his best player in Malcolm Butler.

Ask yourself this: Is McVay ready to outscheme Belichick? Will Belichick lose two Bowls in a row?

No.

Patriots 30, Rams 24

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Philadelphia Flyers at Boston Bruins	NBC Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Temple at Houston	ESPN 2
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Purdue at Penn State	FOX Sports 1
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Oregon at Utah	FOX Sports 1
10:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Philadelphia 76ers at Golden State Warriors	TNT
11:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Gonzaga at BYU	ESPN 2

Sixers–Warriors betting preview

These teams have not produced many competitive games lately, with Golden State winning the last 10 meetings in a row by an average score of 115.7 to 99.2. The Warriors, winners of 11 straight, have been a sight to behold on offense in January, scoring 115 or more points in 11 of 12 tilts. What's even more incredible is that the "Dubs" have played seven of their last eight games on the road, with tough stops at Denver and Boston included.

DeMarcus Cousins has been folded in seamlessly so far, as he's averaged 18 points per game over his last three appearances. Steph Curry is riding a hot hand into Thursday night, as he shot 76 percent (6-for-8 from 3-point range) against the Pacers on Monday. It's hard to anticipate Philly's defense, which allows over 115 points per game on the road, giving Golden State much difficulty.

Cheat sheet:
If you pick the Sixers and they win outright or lose by nine or less, you win!

On the flip side, Joel Embiid and Jimmy Butler will get their fair share of points against the Warriors' 20th-rated defense (111.8 points per game allowed) and Golden State is due for a let-down. This is a team that has coasted at times during the regular season during this sensational title-contending era. Maybe Thursday night against the Sixers is the night they get caught napping.

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NHL

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS AT BOSTON BRUINS -175

NEW YORK RANGERS AT NEW JERSEY -135

NBA

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS AT GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS -9.5

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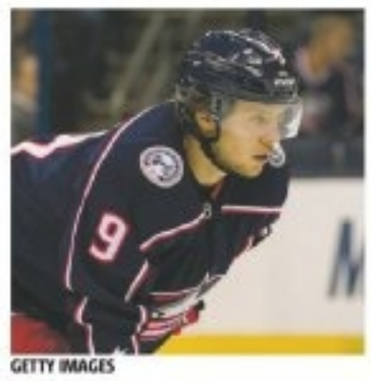
Flyers going in on Panarin?

Even though the NHL trade deadline is still a few weeks away, it will not deter the Philadelphia Flyers from making moves to upgrade the team for the future.

Philadelphia is currently on a four-game winning streak but still has the fourth-worst record in the Eastern Conference (20-23-6). With that being known, Flyers GM Chuck Fletcher is doing his diligence on "trying to make the team better at all costs."

While veteran forward Wayne Simmonds has been mentioned as a potential trade chip for the Orange and Black, they could also be in the running for talented winger Artemi Panarin of the Blue Jackets.

Aaron Portlzine of The Athletic reported on Monday that Panarin declined to talk about a contract extension with Columbus until after the season, opening the doors to the pending unrestricted free agent being dealt before next's month deadline.


GETTY IMAGES

The 27-year-old Panarin's looming free agency has been a topic of discussion over the last few months in the hockey world.

This season, the 5-foot-11 winger is having a career year in Columbus with 19 goals and 34 assists (53 points) in 46 games.

On Tuesday, Darren Dreger was on TSN 1050 in Toronto and explained which teams could be interested in the budding star. One of those teams is the Flyers, who reportedly had interest in acquiring Panarin during last year's NHL Draft.

"I'm looking at even the Philadelphia Flyers, depending on what happens," he said (h/t to Chris Nichols of "Nichols on Hockey"). "I didn't know this, maybe you guys did and it slipped under my radar — apparently Philadelphia came real close to acquiring Panarin at the draft last year."

If the Flyers could add Panarin in free agency that would be a huge splash. We saw them sign James van Riemsdyk to a five-year deal last offseason to provide some extra offensive firepower.

However, things can change between now and the end of the season. The Blue Jackets could decide to trade Panarin by the deadline, instead of letting him walk for nothing.

That would leave his new squad to try and sign him to a nice contract extension, which is not out of the realm of possibility. But when it comes to the Flyers' side of things, it is clear they are looking toward the future, and adding Panarin would be a nice step in the right direction.

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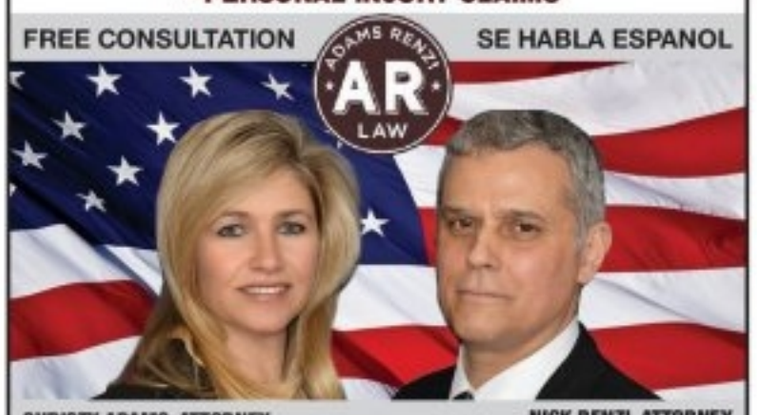

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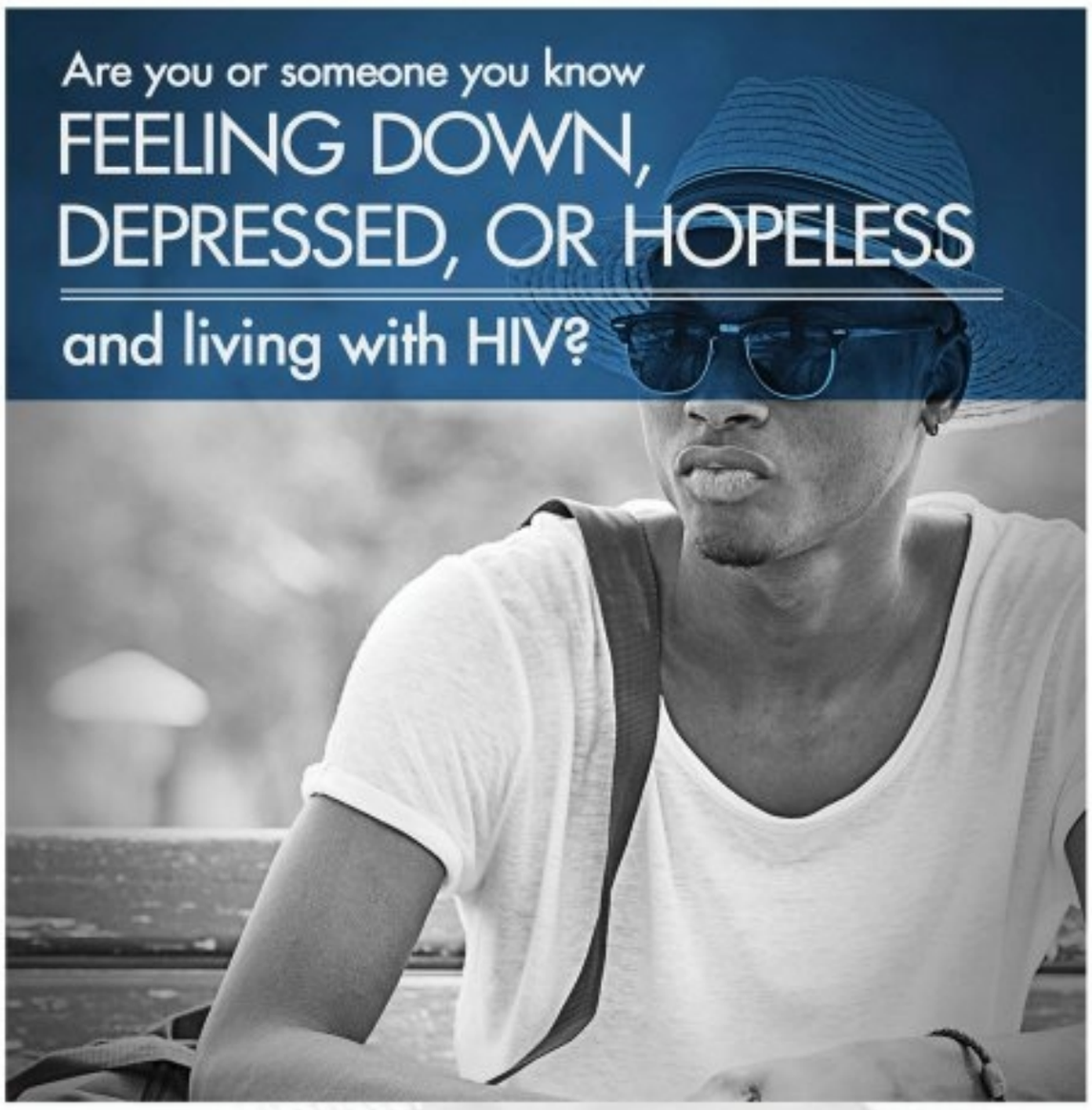
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The **Committee on Finance** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 5, 2019**, at **2:00 PM**, in **Room 400, City Hall,** to hear testimony on the following item:

190004 An Ordinance amending Chapter 19-2900 of Title 19 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Senior Citizen Low Income Special Tax Provisions," by extending the deadline for low-income seniors to apply for a refund or forgiveness of Real Estate Taxes.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Finance, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

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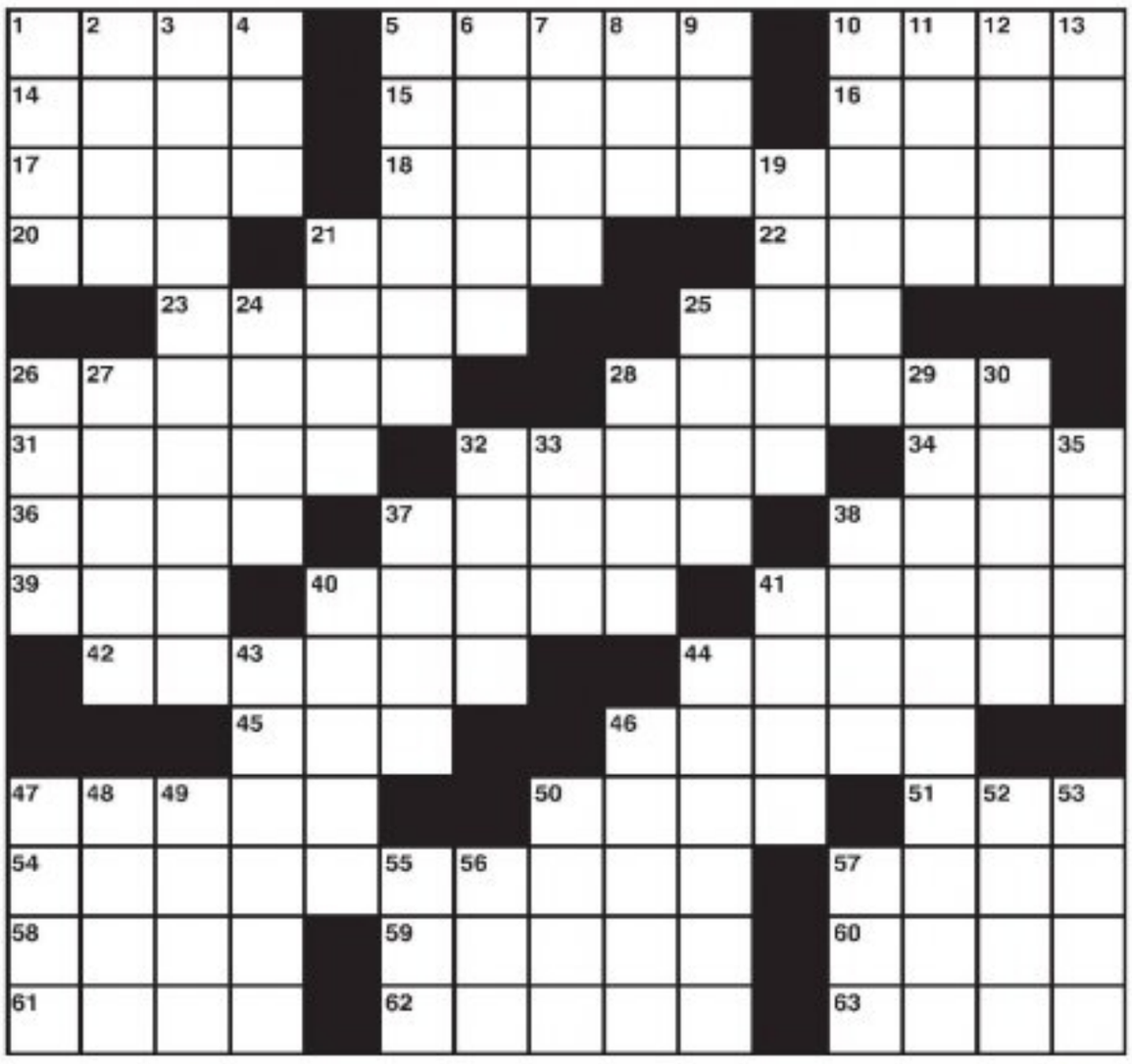

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 __ away; astonish
5 Nagging pains
10 30-day month: abbr.
14 Thick cord
15 Hang limply
16 Barber's focus
17 Matured
18 Britain's charter of rights
20 Put on, as clothing
21 Convulsions
22 Ease, as another's fears
23 Terre __, IN
25 To and __
26 Sunglasses
28 Small earthquake
31 Erie or Panama
32 Adamant refusal
34 Pea casing
36 Opie's pa
37 Tooth problem
38 Incite
39 Part of a sock
40 Hand protectors
41 Aneurysm site, often
42 Loafers
44 Firstborn
45 Bullring shout
46 Dads
47 Fat-shunner of nursery rhyme
50 Suffix for care or hair
51 Eva, to Zsa Zsa
54 Downtown thoroughfare
57 Heap
58 __ a year; annually
59 Use a loom
60 Wicked
61 Reverse or neutral, e.g.
62 Stranger
63 Banana casing

DOWN

1 Actor Pitt
2 Business symbol
3 Generous
4 Marry
5 Fesses up
6 Wooden box
7 Swine
8 Geologic period
9 Hot tub
10 "Peace!"
11 __ Grey tea
12 Gyro bread
13 Cafeteria patron's item
19 Drew, for one
21 Gas or coal
24 "Queen for __" of old TV
25 Ravel
26 "Get lost!"
27 Asian capital city
28 "__ the night before Christmas..."
29 Tyrannical; heavy-handed
30 Overwhelming defeats
32 NBA team
33 Fall month: abbr.
35 "Phooey!"
37 Critical; urgent
38 Malt shop order
40 Patty __; lunch orders
41 European range
43 Car to use temporarily
44 Spring holiday
46 Irritate
47 Air pollution
48 Window glass
49 Costa __
50 Go before others
52 Nastase with a racket
53 Broker's advice
55 Siesta hour
56 Blushing
57 Energy

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S	E	R	E	N	E	G	E	D	F
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			4		2			1
7			5	9		6	3	
5			9	7				8
1				2	3			6
	1	8		4	9			5
2			3		6			
	9		7		8	2	1	

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